

RECOGNIZING DON BRUNELL FOR HIS NEARLY 30 YEARS OF SERVICE AT THE ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON BUSINESS

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2013

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to rise today to recognize my good friend Don C. Brunell, who has been a champion of business in Washington state for nearly 30 years, with an exceptional record of achievement at the Association of Washington Business, the fourth largest state chamber of commerce in the U.S.

Don Brunell came to the Evergreen State in 1978 from his native state of Montana to work in the forest products industry for Crown Zellerbach, combining his love of the outdoors with his interests in politics and business.

In 1981, Don was appointed to the Association of Washington Business Executive Committee and chaired the Association's Natural Resources and Environment Council until, in 1986, Don was appointed vice chairman of government affairs for AWB, and, a year later, president of AWB.

That's how we all know him, as the steady hand and leader of our business community. He has grown the organization from under 1,000 members to what is now the state's largest business advocacy organization with more than 8,000 private employers of all industries and sizes.

Under Don Brunell's 28 years of leadership, the Association of Washington Business has been designated as the state's manufacturing association by the National Association of Manufacturing and is twice recognized by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce as an Accredited Chamber with Distinction, and is currently one of just four state chambers "accredited with distinction"

But maybe his most enduring legacy is his extensive work with Washington Business Week and through the Don C. Brunell Scholarship that has helped encourage generations of high school students with an interest in business to achieve their entrepreneurial goals.

In his role as AWB President, Don Brunell has had the honor of working with five Washington governors, including Govs. Gardner, Lowry, Locke, Gregoire and Inslee, as well as the leaderships of Speakers Ehlers, King, Ebersole, Ballard, and Chopp. For hundreds of legislators, Don was the voice of experience, always looking out to protect our wonderful free enterprise system.

I want to particularly note that each Christmas since 1988, the holidays for many rural families in Washington have been a bit brighter—and the Legislative Building a bit more festive—since Don Brunell founded the Holiday Kids' Tree Program, raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for needy families around the state and establishing the community tradition of a tree lighting each December in the state capitol.

Throughout his distinguished career, Don has maintained his strong belief in family, as evidenced by his marriage of 42 years to wife Jeri, children Jennifer, Carey, Erin, Don, Dan and Colleen and his 14 grandchildren; and Don has also remained committed to those serving in the U.S. armed forces, himself a

veteran with 23 years of service in the U.S. Army, Montana and Washington Army National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve as a special forces, infantry and public affairs officer.

It is bittersweet to see such a distinguished career draw to a close, but I must acknowledge Don will retire from AWB in January 2014, making the legislative session that is drawing to a close in Washington state the last one with Don as president of the state's largest and oldest business association.

Future legislators and business leaders should draw inspiration from his steadfastness and dedication to the cause of freedom and free enterprise that was a constant during his long and honorable career.

ROB O'BRIAN, 2013 WINNER OF SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S PHOENIX AWARD

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2013

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce President Rob O' Brian, recipient of the U.S. Small Business Administration's Phoenix Award.

Like all Joplin residents, Rob had his life drastically changed on May 22, 2011, when an EF5 tornado touched down leaving only a path of destruction in its wake.

The aftermath of the Joplin tornado left the area with nearly 5,000 jobs in jeopardy of being lost and damage to over 550 local businesses. As president of the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce, Rob used his quick thinking and resourcefulness to help business owners recover from the destruction left behind from the tornado.

Through the leadership of Rob, the Joplin Chamber was able to set up a Small Business Administration Business Recovery Center just days after the tornado. This center enabled the chamber and its staff to help all business owners in their time of need. In fact, over 500 affected companies are still operating today and 90 percent of the jobs affected by the storm were saved.

In addition to the reopened businesses, more than 100 new employers have opened their doors since the storm. The new businesses cited the resilience of Joplin residents and the support of Rob and the Joplin Chamber as key reasons for their decision to locate to the region.

The Small Business Administration's Phoenix Award is awarded to businesses, public officials, and volunteers who are tested by disasters like the Joplin tornado but work to overcome the disaster by rebuilding and helping their communities recover.

Rob's acts of courage, selflessness and perseverance in the aftermath of this disaster make him an outstanding recipient of this award. I am grateful for his leadership and service to Missouri's 7th District.

HONORING ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, DAVIER RODRIGUEZ AND JESUS CISNEROS

HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2013

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Arizona State University students, Davier Rodriguez and Jesus Cisneros, winners of the Clinton Global Initiative University's 2013 Commitments Challenge.

Mr. Rodriguez and Mr. Cisneros are the leaders of DREAMzone ASU, a professional development workshop aimed at bettering the ability of student leaders, staff, and faculty to meet the social, cultural and academic needs of undocumented students at Arizona State University.

DREAMzone ASU strives to establish a network of support as part of a national network of allies through a four-hour certification program. Those enrolled in the program expand their content knowledge regarding federal, state, local, and institutional policies that directly affect the undocumented college student experience. Participants also actively work to increase their knowledge of the challenges faced by undocumented students at ASU, and by challenging assumptions through meaningful dialogue and interaction.

The Clinton Global Initiative University's Commitments Challenge involved a rigorous application process and four rounds of intensive online voting, in which DREAMzone emerged victorious. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Rodriguez and Mr. Cisneros on this accomplishment, and on their hard work to help make many DREAMs a reality.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2013

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in my district and missed the votes on Monday, June 3, 2013.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 184, H.R. 1206—Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 and "yea" on rollcall No. 185, S. 622—Animal Drug and Animal Generic Drug User Fee Reauthorization Act of 2013.

YATZIRE AGUIRRE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Yatzire Aguirre for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Yatzire Aguirre is a 12th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.